

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I strongly support House Resolution 921 and America's ally, Israel.

This is a critical time for the entire Middle East. The unprovoked, illegitimate acts of Hamas and Hezbollah in recent days have been despicable. As the President has said, Israel, like any other sovereign nation, "should be allowed to defend herself." Israeli citizens should not have to live with hundreds of Hezbollah's Katyusha (ka-TOO-sha) rockets reigning down upon them in their neighborhoods.

Let there be no question that the attacks on the northern border and the kidnapping of the soldier along the western border are the result of more than 58 years of hatred against Israel by supporters of groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. These terrorist organizations simply do not want to live in peace alongside Israel. Hamas and Hezbollah both officially state they are totally dedicated to ending the nation of Israel and killing Israelis.

Certainly, the loss of innocent life anywhere in the world is tragic. We all mourn for families in Lebanon and Israel who have been torn apart in the recent violence. But perhaps the real treachery of extremist terrorists lies in their efforts to assimilate into nations of the world and hide amongst law-abiding citizens. For one full week now, from civilian areas of Lebanon, Hezbollah terrorists have lobbed more than a thousand rockets at innocent people in Israel. In response, Israel retains every right to retaliate against these attacks, and Hezbollah's disregard for innocent life on both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli border has led to needless deaths.

While our brave servicemen and women fight for freedom and democracy in Iraq, we must never forget that the nation of Israel has for decades been the greatest Middle East ally to the U.S. and all democratic, free nations.

The enemies of Israel can choose to live in peace alongside Israel. If they do not choose peace, Israelis have every right to defend their nation, with full confidence the United States will always stand with them.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 921 condemning recent attacks against Israel. The attacks and kidnapping of Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah have precipitated a crisis in the region. Like any sovereign power, Israel has the right and responsibility to defend herself against unprovoked attacks.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 calls for the dismantling of all independent militias in Lebanon. That resolution has never been enforced. Consequently, the Hezbollah militia has been able to operate freely in Lebanon, especially in the southern area bordering Israel, and has amassed a large arsenal of weapons, including an estimated 13,000 rockets. During the past year, Hezbollah has launched at least four separate rocket attacks into Israel. The latest round of rockets have fallen indiscriminately on civilians in Haifa and other population centers.

Hezbollah's terrorist operations not only pose a threat to Israel, but they also threaten the security of Lebanon. The majority of people in Lebanon strongly resent Hezbollah for dragging Lebanon into a conflict with Israel. They understand that Israel did not initiate these hostilities and has a right to defend herself. Israel also has a right to destroy the military and terrorist apparatus employed by Hezbollah in its attacks on Israel. Israel must make it absolutely clear that its efforts are focused on that objective. Every effort must be made to prevent civilian casualties. Actions perceived by the people of Lebanon to unnecessarily target civilian infrastructure will have the unintentional consequence of transforming Lebanese anger at Hezbollah into anger at Israel. The United States and Israel must not unwittingly hand Hezbollah a propaganda victory and strengthen the hands of the extremists in the region.

Unfortunately, recent American actions in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, especially the war in Iraq, have had the unintentional but very foreseeable consequence of inflaming anti-Western sentiment and strengthening the position of the most radical Islamic forces. Among the biggest beneficiaries of the situation in Iraq has been neighboring Iran. Iran has exploited the chaos and instability in Iraq to advance its own radical agenda and expand its influence in the region. It has also further strengthened its leverage and reach in the region through its continued support of Hezbollah. The United States must do more to rally the international community to pressure Syria and Iran to end their support for Hezbollah and Hamas. However, our leverage has been considerably weakened by the situation in Iraq and the perception that the United States is bogged down there.

In a speech delivered at the American Enterprise Institute in February 2003, a few weeks before invading Iraq, President Bush declared that going to war in Iraq would promote democracy and stability in the Middle East, reduce the influence of the hardliners and help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Specifically, the President said, "Success in Iraq could also begin a new stage for Middle Eastern peace and set in motion progress toward a truly democratic Palestinian state. The passing of Saddam Hussein's regime will deprive terrorist networks of a wealthy nation that pays for terrorist training and offers rewards to families of suicide bombers and other regimes will be given a clear warning that support for terrorists would not be tolerated."

Unfortunately, but predictably, we have seen the opposite result in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. The prospects of achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement are far more remote today than they were when we invaded Iraq. While we engaged militarily in Iraq, this Administration disengaged from any

serious effort at re-establishing an Israeli-Palestinian peace process. This Administration must confront the fact that its failed policies in Iraq and the region are further destabilizing and inflaming an already volatile region. We must lead not just by the might of our military, but by the power of our example. It is time to begin rebuilding our credibility around the world.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House several key moments over the last several weeks where the United Nations has been called upon by the international community to address issues of grave global concern and has taken significant steps to increase its own efficiency and efficacy.

In the last week alone, the U.N., which is located in my congressional district, has been asked to deal with the nuclear threat from North Korea, hostilities in Lebanon, and the deteriorating peace and humanitarian situation in Gaza. In fact, as I speak, a U.N. team, led by Under Secretary General Vijay Nambiar, is on the ground in the Middle East helping defuse the current crisis. They have already met with the prime ministers of both Israel and Lebanon and the foreign ministers of the Arab League. Over the next few days, they may return to Lebanon and, perhaps, travel to Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories before returning to New York to brief the U.N. Security Council. Secretary Rice called for the creation of this team and has, along with the President, the National Security Advisor, and a host of other administration officials, publicly supported it since its inception. In fact, during a press briefing in Germany on July 13, Secretary Rice called the Secretary-General's mission "the best opportunity now for deescalation of this crisis."

The U.N. Security Council has also taken action against Iran and North Korea, two regimes that the United States has deemed a serious threat to international security and stability but has been unable or unwilling to address directly on its own. Last Saturday, the Security Council voted unanimously to demand that North Korea suspend all ballistic missile launches and related activity and required all member states to prevent the import or export of funds or goods that could fuel Pyongyang's missile or weapons of mass destruction programs. And, as reported in Tuesday's New York Times, the Security Council, including China and Russia, is currently developing a resolution based on a previous agreement to require Iran to suspend its nuclear programs or suffer actions under article 41, chapter 7, of the U.N. Charter, which allows for sanctions.

In addition, at the request of President Bush and the Iraqi Government, the United Nations announced earlier this month that it will help create an "International Compact for Iraq" to provide a platform for international support. The Deputy Secretary General has already traveled to Baghdad to begin discussions with